

**LESSON PLANS & STUDENT ACTIVITIES****MONUMENTS: REMEMBERING THE PAST****LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Think historically by evaluating the significance of historical figures and events
- Understand that historical significance is connected to present day circumstances
- Explore the meaning of monuments and memorialization
- Exercise creativity

**ACTIVITY:**

1. View and discuss (live or using images) local monuments. If possible, find a local historical organization to give a tour or explanation of the stories and meaning behind these monuments.
2. Using google images, view monuments from around Canada and the world. Have students conduct and present basic research about these monuments in order to understand why they were erected and the significance of the people or events being commemorated.
  - a. Suggested Canadian Monuments: Vimy Ridge Memorial, Brooding Soldier/St. Julien Memorial, Canadian National War Memorial, Peacekeeping Monument, National Aboriginal Veterans Monument, Monument to Canadian Fallen
  - b. Suggested international monuments: Valley of the Fallen, Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, Columbus Lighthouse, Memento Park Budapest, National Statuary Hall Collection on Capitol Hill
1. Watch the three short videos related to monuments:
  - The Soldier's Statue: <http://valourcanada.ca/video-documentaries/the-soldiers-statue/> (2 minutes)
  - Horseman of the Plain's Statue: <http://valourcanada.ca/video-documentaries/horseman-of-the-plains-statue/> (2 minutes)
  - Cenotaph: <http://valourcanada.ca/video-documentaries/cenotaph/> (2 minutes)
2. Have students design a monument to commemorate a historical figure or event

**MODIFICATIONS:**

- Have students evaluate a controversial statue or monument and decide whether it warrants removal, change, or no action. Expose students to alternate viewpoints then encourage students to defend their own perspective.
- Have students write a memorial plaque to be placed under an existing memorial to explain its meaning.
- Have students create counter monuments which aim to balance perspectives or add to the historical understanding of a person or event memorialized in a statue or monument.

**Objectives:**

*Our Intention is to educate Canadian Citizens so that they:*

- » *Appreciate the role of our military heritage in protecting Canadian interests, values and beliefs.*
- » *Understand the role our military history has had in shaping our country and the world.*
- » *Are inspired to be engaged and well-informed participatory citizens of Canada.*

**Historical Era: Lesson applicable to any era, suggested videos focus on Boer and First World Wars (1899-1918)**

**Intended Student Body: Grades 4 – 12**

*\* Activity can easily be modified for most grades and ability levels.*

**RESOURCES REQUIRED:**

- Valour Canada video clips (<http://valourcanada.ca/video-documentaries/>)
- Assignment sheet (provided)
- Paper and tools for sketching

**Preparatory Activities:**

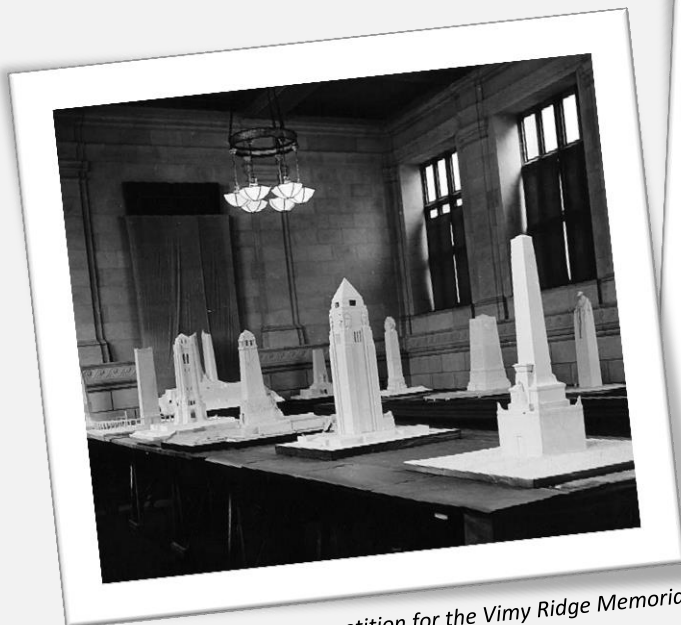
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2. Discuss:
  - What do you think the purpose of a monument is? Why do we memorialize certain historical figures and events?
  - What is the difference between commemoration and glorification? Why does this matter in how people and events are memorialized?
  - Why is the removal of monuments sometimes controversial? Why is the removal of monuments sometimes seen as beneficial or necessary?

**Assignment:**

Your assignment is to pick a historical figure or event to memorialize by designing a monument and/or memorial plaque to accompany a memorial. Don’t worry if your person or event is already memorialized. The point is to use creativity to memorialize someone or something you believe is worthy of commemoration and to think through why and how best to do it. Brainstorm historical figures and events that could be memorialized. Consider the questions below, then create a long list of names and/or events, then a short list, and finally pick one to focus on. Sketch a design for your monument. Include any required text you believe is necessary for explanation.

Consider the following:

- What historical figures or events are worth memorializing?
- What criteria could be used to determine what is worth remembering? Examples of criteria to consider include:
  - What was the importance of the person or event at the time?
  - How broad were the consequences of the event? How far reaching was the impact of the person?
  - To what extent is the event or person representative of an era, an issue, a mindset, or a movement? What can this event or person tell us about a period in history?
- What is the significance of this person or event to people today? What is the motive for memorializing the person or event now?



*Models submitted to the Competition for the Vimy Ridge Memorial*  
 (Credit: Veterans Affairs Canada)



*Vimy Ridge Memorial, Allward’s Sympathy of Canadians for the Helpless statue group*  
 (Credit: L. Darling)



*Saint Julien Memorial, Brooding Soldier*  
 (Credit: Lbmarshall, WikiCommons)